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S. decides to rejoin ILO

ON, Feb. 13 (R)—The United States has decided to rejoin the International Labour Organisation (ILO), which it quit in 1954. The White House said today. President Carter follows recommendations by a cabinet-level committee of representatives of organized labour and industry, which told him earlier this month that the ILO had its previous political stands. Saying he had pulled the United States out of the ILO, a United Nations agency, the president said he now believed the organization had returned to its original role. The ILO, the oldest U.N. agency, includes delegates from workers and employers' organizations. Its responsibilities include promoting and improved working conditions throughout the world.

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AMMAN, THURSDAY FEBRUARY 14, 1980 — RABI' ALAWAL 28, 1400

Gravest bulletin on Tito's health

BELGRADE, Feb. 13 (R)—President Tito's condition worsened today, and doctors fought to save his life as his heart and kidney functions gradually weakened. The life of the 87-year-old Yugoslav leader appeared to be in acute danger due to serious complications after a leg amputation three weeks ago. Doctors treating him at a hospital at Ljubljana, northern Yugoslavia, said they were using "intensive measures of treatment" to halt the deterioration in his condition. The doctors said the president's general state of health had deteriorated during the day, and there had been further weakening of the functions of his kidneys and heart. The medical bulletin was the gravest issued in the six weeks since the president has been ill, and the most serious since doctors reported last Sunday that his recovery from the leg amputation on Jan. 20 had been slowed down by complications. Yugoslav officials said his condition was grave, but declined to say whether his illness had now entered a final stage.

Price: Jordan 50 fils; Syria 50 piastres; Lebanon 75 piastres; Saudi Arabia 1 riyal; UAE 1 dirham; Great Britain 25 pence.

leaders hint at early solution to hostages crisis

(Agencies)—The ruling council said today the problem of hostages held in Tehran as a result of the change in the Shah's regime requires a solution. "It is possible. I don't think such a solution is excluded," the council secretary said today. The council secretary said that any decision to transfer the hostages to government care from their student captors would have to be approved by a majority of Iranians and by the students. Dr. Beheshti played down the importance of continued fighting in the northwestern town of Gonbad Kavus, near the Soviet border, where clashes between minority Turkoman guerrillas and government forces were reported still raging for the fifth successive day today. Local residents told Reuters by telephone that the army and Islamic revolutionary guards, using automatic weapons, had driven the guerrillas into the outskirts of Gonbad Kavus where tanks had sealed their escape routes. Hospitals refused to disclose casualty figures and the residents said they dared not go out because of gunfire. At least 10 guerrillas have been arrested by the guards and were waiting to appear before roving Islamic judge Ayatollah Sadeq Khalkhali, sent to Gonbad Kavus by the head of Iran's revolutionary courts to "reestablish law and order." A group of some 2,000 air force non-commissioned officers and technicians occupying Tehran University's mosque demanded today that Ayatollah Khalkhali be made chief military judge to purge the armed forces. The protesters, from four air bases around Tehran, began an indefinite sit-in yesterday to demand the establishment of Islamic councils in the army and the release of officers arrested for campaigning on the issue. A group of American radicals, in Tehran as guests of the militant students occupying the U.S. embassy, has expressed the American people's concern at the continued detention of the 49 hostages, its leader said today. Professor Norman Forer told a press conference the group had also documented the views of Iranians about alleged U.S. interference in Iranian affairs. Professor Forer, a sociologist at Kansas University, blamed the press, particularly that of the United States, for whipping up anti-Iranian hysteria among Americans. In Geneva, Iran's ambassador to the United Nations said today he expected diplomatic moves by U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim to lead to the release of the American hostages. Ambassador Mansour Farhang also told reporters he hoped Iran would insist on a public act of contrition by the United States over its support of the deposed Shah before the 49 diplomatic captives were set free. He said he expected an initiative set in motion by Dr. Waldheim would resolve the three-month-old hostage crisis, noting that an international commission to judge alleged crimes by the former Shah was now about to be formed. In Athens, Iranian Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh said today he was touring three European capitals to open a dialogue on cooperation in which the sovereignty and independence of his country's revolutionary government would be unquestionable. He was addressing a news conference after a brief meeting with Greek Foreign Minister George Rallis during which they discussed the position of the United States in the Middle East and bilateral cultural and economic ties. He is due to fly to Rome tomorrow and then on to Paris. Asked to elaborate on a proposed international commission to deal with the American hostages issue, he said Iran wanted a total solution to the crisis. "This should take into account our demands and those of the United States and needs diplomatic procedures," he said. It did not matter whether this procedure took five or 10 years, he added.

ional Briefs

(R)—U.S. chief delegate to the United Nations, Henry, arrived today for talks with Egyptian President Sadat. Henry said his discussions would focus on issues at Egypt and to the region. He said he hoped the talks would afford "a rather substantial exchange of views" on the Middle East and bilateral economic relations. Henry said he would meet Egyptian Minister of State Kamel Hassan Ali. He is expected to see Egyptian Prime Minister Mustapha Khalil officials in Washington said Mr. Henry would try to talk with government leaders in the Middle East taking any personal messages from President Jimmy Carter.

Feb. 13 (R)—President Jafar Numeiri today signed the president of the high executive council of the Sudan. The Sudan News Agency (SUNA) said Mr. Lagu asked to be relieved in preparation for the elections following his dissolution by the president. No date has been fixed for the election. Pres. Lagu's efforts in maintaining unity in the northern and southern regions, the agency said.

(R)—Seven Gulf information ministers ended a last night with an appeal to international media to report objectively. "While endeavouring to bring peace and understanding as a basic principle in international relations, the ministers hoped that the international media in Arab affairs objectively and impartially, they Jatar, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq attended the conference which ended on Tuesday. No official reason was given. Oman expressed about a decision to pay \$3 million towards a mission training centre to be set up in Damascus, a mission said without elaborating. Qatar was asked to join Arab League and the ministers signed an agreement to set up an information documentation centre in Amman.

b. 13 (R)—Venezuelan President Luis Herrera said today from Saudi Arabia on the last leg of a tour of the Gulf. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said he was in Baghdad at the invitation of President Hussein. All seven states are members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). President Herrera is accompanied by several cabinet ministers and senior aides. Some unconfirmed reports had said he would also visit Iran during his current tour, aimed at strengthening ties with the Arab world. Countries so far on the tour include the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

b. 13 (R)—Irish Foreign Minister Brian Lenihan today after holding what he described as fruitful talks with Irish leaders on developing bilateral relations. The Irish News (INA) quoted the minister, who spent three days at the head of an official delegation, as saying the Irish government was looking forward to the development of broader relations with Iraq, especially in the economic fields. Before coming to Baghdad, Mr. Lenihan visited Bahrain with Irish President Patrick Hillery.

(R)—Qatar's minister of state for foreign affairs, Bin Saeed Al Thani, left for Paris today for talks with French Foreign Minister Jean-François Poncet, the official Qatar said. The two-day talks will deal with bilateral relations and the visit of President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing to Qatar next month, the agency said.



Prime Minister Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf (left) and Spanish Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez inspect a guard of honour at Amman airport Wednesday. Dr. Suarez ended a two-day visit to Jordan.

Suarez ends Jordan visit

AMMAN, Feb. 13 (Agencies)—Spanish Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez left Amman for home today at the end of a two-day visit. During which he was received in audience by His Majesty King Hussein and held talks with His Highness Crown Prince Hassan, and Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Sharaf. Talks between the two sides dealt with international issues and recent Middle East developments. As well as means of strengthening Jordanian-Spanish relations, the Jordan News Agency (JNA) reported. In a statement at Amman airport before departure, Dr. Suarez expressed satisfaction with the existing friendly ties between Jordan and Spain. He said agreement had been reached on the exchange of delegations from both countries to study in detail provisions of agreements to be signed between the two countries dealing with the commercial, technical and touristic affairs. The two sides also agreed in principle to renew the existing cultural agreement between them, Dr. Suarez said. The Spanish premier met earlier today with His Highness Crown Prince Hassan for an exchange of views on the Middle East problem. The Crown Prince explained to Dr. Suarez and his accompanying delegation Israel's settlement policy in the occupied Arab territories, its plans to Judaize Jerusalem and pressures exerted by Israel against the Arab inhabitants to evict them from their homeland, JNA said. He also briefed the Spanish premier on Jordanian-PLO coordination in strengthening the steadfastness of the Palestinians under Israeli occupation, the agency added. Before the meeting with the Crown Prince, Dr. Suarez chaired a meeting of Spanish ambassadors in the Middle East. Premier Suarez is said to have stressed the importance of strengthening Spain's relations with these countries particularly with the Arab states, JNA reported.

Iraq links oil supply to 'political understanding'

BONN, Feb. 13 (R)—Iraqi Foreign Minister Saadoun Hammadi today linked the prospect of guaranteed Arab oil supplies for Western Europe to political understanding between European and Arab countries. Addressing a press conference in Bonn, he urged a meeting of Arab and West European foreign ministers as a way of achieving progress in the dialogue between the two regions. Mr. Hammadi, speaking after talks with West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, said Arab states were ready to discuss how future oil supplies to Europe could be guaranteed. But he also declared: "Cooperation in the energy field should in the long term lead to political understanding." European countries must appreciate two prime Arab concerns, he said. These were the ending of Israeli occupation of Arab territory and the demand that major powers should not interfere in Arab affairs. Mr. Hammadi said Arab states which had condemned the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan also rejected attempted meddling in the Arab World by the United States. There could be no return to a policy of securing military bases, he said. The Iraqi minister avoided committing himself explicitly on current efforts by the European Common Market to forge closer ties with Arab states of the Gulf region. He declared, however, that the political dialogue conducted by Western Europe should be with all Arab countries.

India fails to persuade Moscow to pull troops from Afghanistan

NEW DELHI, Feb. 13 (R)—Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko ended two days of formal talks with Indian leaders today with no indication that New Delhi had been able to persuade Moscow to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan. India had expressed the hope that the Soviet Union would pull out its troops and advocated persuasion rather than confrontation to achieve that objective. An Indian official spokesman said the Soviet side had taken note of India's point of view, but that no joint statement was expected. Mr. Gromyko, the first Soviet leader to visit India since his country's intervention in Afghanistan and Premier Indira Gandhi's return to power, flies home tomorrow at the end of a 44-hour visit. He held informal discussions with Indian External Affairs Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao at a Soviet embassy dinner tonight. The Indian spokesman said Mr. Gromyko had discussed measures to defuse the situation in the region, but there was no indication that any specific proposals had been considered. Such measures need not be in the form of specific proposals, he said. The Soviet minister strongly attacked the United States, Pakistan and China at a banquet last night and said the Soviet action in Afghanistan did not constitute any danger for the security and stability of the region. India is concerned at the proposed rearming of Pakistan as a result of superpower rivalries, and has called on all countries to recognise what it called the gravity of the danger. Speaking to reporters after today's two-hour ministerial meeting, Mr. Gromyko said the talks had been meaningful and friendly. The Indian spokesman said India had reiterated in the talks with Mr. Gromyko that there should be no interference in the affairs of sovereign countries and that frontiers should be held inviolable. "The Soviet Union, consistent with its friendliness with India, took note and appreciated India's point of view," the spokesman added. There may be differences of opinion, but there is agreement to assist each other in resolving the situation, he said. "The Soviet Union has never said that it will never withdraw from Afghanistan and we have not said that they should stay on," he added. The spokesman, who described the talks as "detailed, substantial and business-like," said both sides had reaffirmed their determination to strengthen Indo-Soviet relations. Mrs. Gandhi and Mr. Rao had accepted invitations to visit Moscow at a date to be fixed later, he said.

Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi gestures during official talks with visiting Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko at her office in New Delhi Wednesday. Mr. Gromyko, on a two-day visit, is giving the Indians the Soviet position on its role in Afghanistan. (AP wirephoto)

Jordan condemns Israel's decision to settle Hebron

AMMAN, Feb. 13 (Agencies)—Jordan today condemned an Israeli government decision to permit Israelis to settle in the town of Hebron on the occupied West Bank.

Minister of State Hassan Ibrahim told the Jordan News Agency (JNA) that recent events in Hebron were "part of a long-term Israeli plot aiming at settling this Arab city." "This is evident from the Israeli cabinet's decision (on Sunday) permitting Israelis to settle in Hebron and from the repressive measures adopted by the Israeli authorities in their drive to achieve their aims," Mr. Ibrahim, who is also chairman of the Bureau for Occupied Territories Affairs, was quoted by JNA as saying. He added that Israeli designs for Hebron include "imposing successive day-long curfews on the city and, at the same time, allowing the Gush Emunim fanatics to rampage through the city's streets and attack the Arab citizens."



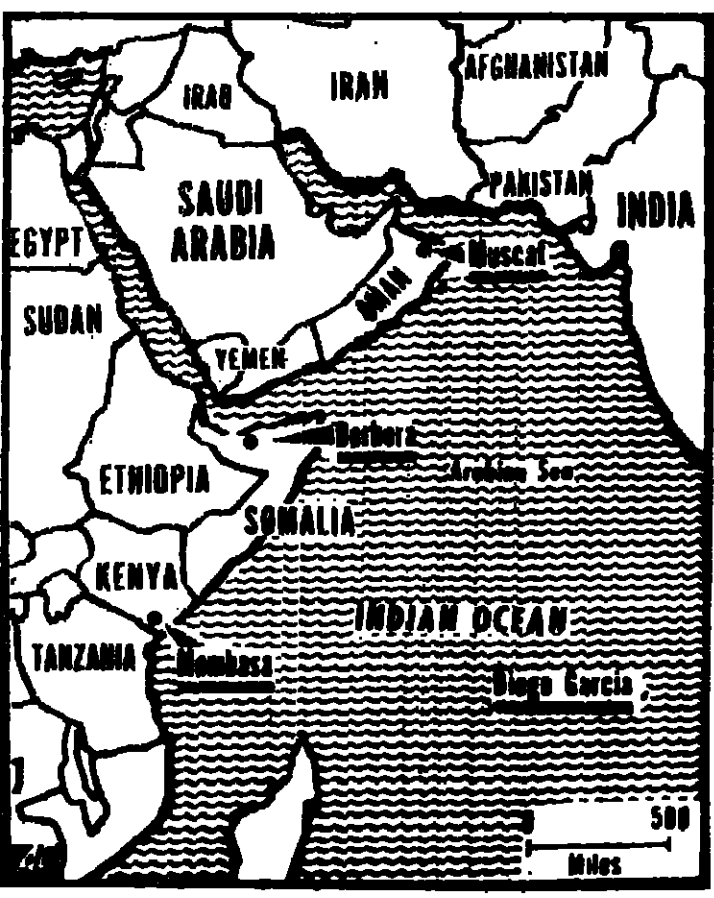
Hassan Ibrahim

"Israel also desecrates the holy Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron, prevents the inhabitants from entering the compound for prayers and forbids children from attending school," he added. The minister said: "This aggressive policy is a flagrant violation of international laws and of human rights." He said: "Persistence by Israel in its settlement policy makes it imperative that the Arab and Muslim states exert serious efforts to put an end to these acts of aggression." Mr. Ibrahim said the Jordanian government has instructed its permanent representative at the United Nations "to raise the issue with the U.N. Secretary-General and to ask the world organisation

(Continued on page 3)

Palestinians, Lebanese army battle in Beirut

BEIRUT, Feb. 13 (R)—Palestinian commandos and Lebanese army regulars battled in West Beirut today and a French diplomat was wounded when he was caught in the crossfire. Syrian peace-keeping troops intervened with tanks and armoured cars to quell the fighting, which involved 106 mm guns, rockets and machineguns. State-run Beirut Radio said the fighting flared over a dispute between soldiers and "armed elements" at the entrance to an army barracks. It lasted about two hours and security sources said six combatants were wounded. French Ambassador Louis Delamare said his military attaché, Lieutenant-Colonel Jean-Louis Dufour was hit in the side as he was driving through the suburb. He was rushed to hospital but the ambassador said he was not seriously wounded. In North Lebanon three people were killed in clashes between rival rightist militias, security sources reported. The United Nations said there was also renewed shelling by rightist gunners in the south but there were no reports of casualties. Security sources said one man was killed and 10 were wounded in fighting between Falangist militiamen and supporters of former President Suleiman Franjeh in the northern Batroun area. A rightist member of parliament was kidnapped in the eastern suburb of Beirut today, according to Falangist sources. The United Nations also reported renewed shelling in the south of the country. Mr. Edmond Rizk, a member of the Falangist Party politburo and a former cabinet minister, was snatched as he was on his way to the presidential palace. Sources declined to identify the kidnappers. Falangists said there were other clashes today in the northern Bshirri province. Today's fighting coincided with a trip to Damascus by Lebanese Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss for talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Prime Minister Abdul Rauf Al Kasm. Syrian plans to withdraw an estimated 8,000 peace-keeping troops from Beirut have raised fears of renewed fighting between the factions who fought the 1975-76 civil war.



WASHINGTON, Feb. 13 (R)—A force of 1,800 U.S. marines is being sent to the Arabian Sea as part of President Carter's pledge to defend oil-producing Gulf countries against any Soviet aggression. Administration officials in Washington said last night that four ships carrying the marines arrived at Subic Bay in the Philippines yesterday and were expected to link up next month with a 20-ship task force already off the Philippines for two weeks before heading for the Arabian Sea. They said the marines, who would be operating in the Arabian Sea for an indefinite period, would be a visible reminder to the Soviet Union of the president's pledge to defend the Gulf. Aboard the ships carrying the marines are helicopters, tanks, anti-tank weapons, 105 millimetre howitzers and amphibious assault weapons. The United States has just obtained tentative commitments from Oman, Kenya and Somalia to permit U.S. forces to use their ports and airfields during emergencies. But officials said those arrangements had not reached the point where the marines could use the bases. These bases at Muscat, Oman; Berbera, Somalia; and Mombasa, Kenya, would serve as forward operating bases for ships and planes stationed mostly at Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean, according to Pentagon sources. The Oman base, situated near the entrance to the Gulf, is the most strategic. More than 60 per cent of the Western World's imported oil supply passes through the Gulf. (AP laserphoto)

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Lettuces thrive in Jordan's first successful hydroponics scheme

and photos
Sara O'Neill
Staff Reporter

Feb. 13 -- The succulent of some 300 cabbages, tucked away in a greenhouse on the Jordan campus, may seem at all

assessing, however, a little perplexed as in of a regular plastic asbin in the process of lettuce. On closer of the plants them might wonder how to thrive nestled in shiny, black plastic-igated asbestos, their ged only in water. initiated, the whole appear to be just a ruined, though intricate. But the boyish-ung English inventor it eccentricity (evi-its bright blue Vol-1 the name "Herbie" ge and clear on the belie the serious, ical nature of his

lural experts, par-ue concerned with is experiment in hyd- he growing of plants nutrient solution with in inert medium to hanical support--has significance, since it cessful pilot scheme be carried out in Jor-cess, if taken up on a commercial basis as British. Hydroponics David Rogers hopes. tionise the agricul-ity of this country.

ction of one million out 250 tons) of let-um in a country where average is less than seem like the wild nutty scientist. But, imate on experience where Mr. Rogers' technique originated eady proved to be quite viable--this figure is, in theory at

ving for all kinds of tbacks that one a developing coun-ied resources, the, hydroponics could considerably to rdan's agricultural

production. Eventually it could help alleviate the trade deficit, by allowing the country to export in large quantities not only to the rest of the region but to Europe as well.

It has already been proved in parts of Europe and the USA, Mr. Rogers pointed out enthusiastically to the Jordan Times this week, that the total control of the environment that hydroponics entail results in better quality products. He also allows annual yields per dunum five to ten times higher than those achieved with the more conventional forms of agriculture commonly in use throughout the world.

Even in the West, the most sophisticated alternative method of growing plants and vegetables--by using drip irrigation and growing the plants in peat--only brings in a yield half the size of that now being achieved with hydroponics.

Mr. Rogers' new hydroponics method allows production of tomatoes, for instance, easily to reach 40 tons a dunum, compared with the meagre two tons averaged in Jordan according to 1978 statistics. Those farms recently equipped with drip irrigation in the Jordan Valley may be producing two or three times that amount by now, but no matter how efficient farmers may become using drip irrigation they will always face the usual constraints of changing climatic conditions, availability of water and deterioration in soil quality.

Mr. Rogers' technique saves 97 per cent of the water normally required for irrigation using the flood method and 40 per cent of that required by drip irrigation.

An optimum environment is achieved by growing the plants in a specially designed unit in which temperature, humidity and lighting are all scientifically controlled. In this way one is not limited to a particular season but can produce crops continuously all the year round. Since an earth base is not used, one can also create infinitely more flexible support systems, reaching from ceiling to floor in some cases, so that the whole volume of the greenhouse is used.

Mr. Rogers, who chose lettuce for his pilot scheme in Jordan since they grow very quickly--in one to two months compared with the six needed for tomatoes--and take up less space than vegetables, first studied hydroponics as a student at home in England.



Overall view of demonstration showing nutrient store and headworks designed and installed by Mr. Rogers, at a cost of JD 100. Mr. Rogers' scheme allows for the plants' receiving water continuously for 25 minutes in every half hour, and for the other five minutes being exposed to open air. This helps oxygenation of the roots. The plastic dustbin acts as the head tank of the feed system. A small hole in a pipe passing through the dustbin allows just the

right amount of water to flow down to fill the tank in 15 minutes, while the rest of the water in the pipe bypasses the head tank and is pumped round and round through the system. For a further 15 minutes the pump is turned off to allow the head tank to empty in 10 minutes and the plants to breathe for five. The water which feeds the plants flows back through a drainage system to the storage tank, ready for recycling.

At the only college in Europe to concentrate exclusively on agricultural engineering, Cranfield Institute of Technology in Bedfordshire, Mr. Rogers took a Bachelors degree in science, specialising in his final year in Nutrient Film Technology (NFT).

NFT is the only really successful commercial hydroponics technique developed so far, he explained, the other techniques still being mainly in the research stage.

Hydroponics involves either one of two main methods: The first is the growing of plants in an inert rooting material, such as expanded clay granules or sand. The plants can also be grown in just a nutrient solution in water, as is the case with NFT.

NFT was originally invented by an English scientist, Dr. Alan Cooper in the late 1960s as a research tool for the nutritional analysis of plants. It involves the feeding of plants by a mere one millimetre of nutrient film consisting of calcium nitrate, nitric acid and a fertilizer mixed in ordinary water. The nutrient solution is pumped to the plants, which in the case of Mr. Rogers' project are laid out in the gutters of plastic-covered asbestos and support by a fence-like structure.

Not only is very little water needed, due to the high concentration of nutrients, but it is constantly recycled by means of a high powered pump, pipe network and a storage tank. The only water loss is through transpiration, not in evaporation or seepage loss, so that the system only needs replenishing once a week, or less.

Except for regular checks for conductivity and pH (acidity) adjustment and addition of nutrients the whole system is automatic. By the use of thermostatically controlled evaporative cooling systems with heating in the winter and carbon dioxide enrichment, Mr. Rogers said, one can control the environment completely.

The NFT technique, which was first carried out on a commercial scale in the early 1970s after its marketing potential was realised, rapidly caught on, first in England and later in other parts of Europe and the United States. Now, for example, one third of all the tomatoes grown in the Channel Islands, traditionally the source of the U.K.'s earliest and best tomatoes, are grown using this method.

However, rising fuel costs in

Europe are making it increasingly uneconomical to grow plants by this method in the winter months, since heating is the highest cost component of hydroponics in the cold north.

"The Middle East, with its abundant sunshine, is far better suited for the large-scale production of salad and all horticultural crops. Thanks to the high quality of these products, they could compete more and more in the international market," Mr. Rogers says with some conviction.

For a year following his graduation in 1978, Mr. Rogers carried out feasibility studies for hydroponic projects in Dubai, Saudi Arabia and Oman. This work was done for George Wimpey Laboratories, a subsidiary organisation set up by the building contractors, George Wimpey International, chiefly to assist in such fields as geo-technical analysis, hydraulic analysis for dams, testing strengths for building materials and so on. Hydroponic studies marked a new departure for the company, but until the time Mr. Rogers left, the projects were still in the research stage.

His wish to apply his theoretical knowledge in a practical way brought him to Jordan last year. One hydroponics technique is already being used in two coun-

tries in the region--Kuwait and Israel--but these countries are not using NFT, but a high-capital branch of hydroponics (all other branches are much more costly than NFT) involving gravel culture. In this system a gravel base supporting the plants is flooded with water, then drained and the water collected and recycled. Although this saves on energy consumption since the pumps are turned off while the water is seeping through, considerably more water is used and lost in each cycle and oxygenation to the roots is not provided.

Thus this technique cannot compete, either qualitatively or quantitatively, with the NFT method, Mr. Rogers said. In Kuwait as in the rest of the Gulf, there is the additional and costly problem of having to desalinate the water.

A certain purity of water is essential in hydroponics, although it is not necessary to go to extremes and distill it, as some people think. Here in Jordan, the piped water in Amman and the hilly regions of the north and west is perfectly adequate. However, the high salt content of the water in the Jordan Valley renders it unusable without treatment, which, given the present lack of scientific analysis, is impossible. One young Jordanian agricultural

engineer, Mr. Khairuddin Shukri, found this out last year when he had to postpone indefinitely his intention of setting up Jordan's first hydroponic farm.

Despite this fact Mr. Rogers has had considerable difficulty in getting Jordanians interested in developing his hydroponic technique outside the Jordan Valley, when it is perfectly feasible in Amman itself or the neighbouring region. The emphasis on developing agriculture in the valley has apparently made developing other areas unattractive to financial backers.

The second problem is that people cannot understand why he is growing lettuce and not, for instance, tomatoes or cucumbers. Since, however, he has so far only been demonstrating the feasibility of the system, there is little reason for this perplexity. In point of fact, tomatoes, cucumbers and other vegetables such as eggplant and squash could all be grown this way, but for various reasons Mr. Rogers does not rate their cost return nearly as high as house plants, cut flowers, strawberries and lettuce, all of which are in great demand both here and abroad.

The increase in yield of tomatoes achieved here, for instance, would not be nearly as great as in Europe, where tomato plants ten metres high are five times bigger than the dwarf variety grown in the valley. And cucumbers are very susceptible to disease--unfortunately, the optimum environment achieved with hydroponics also provides the optimum breeding ground for viruses and insects. House plants also have the advantage of taking up less room than many vegetables, and Mr. Rogers has proved in his lettuce-growing experiment that their being packed tight together does not affect growth.

Furthermore, Mr. Rogers has introduced an innovative vertical production system for lettuce (not used in his current experiment), which will revolutionise not only production, but marketing techniques as well.

The idea of vertical production was put forward by NFT's inventor, Dr. Cooper, but "I have developed this with his approval," Mr. Rogers said enthusiastically. The system involves growing the lettuce in plastic tubes suspended from ceiling to floor on a framework with regularly spaced holes for the lettuce.

The holes will be just big enough to keep the lettuce from falling out, since they will grow hanging downwards at an angle of 45 degrees. The bare roots inside

the bag will be fed with the nutrient solution, which will pass down the bag and be pumped back up again.

The critical factor in this method, which will make maximum use of the space in the greenhouse, is the size and spacing of the holes, Mr. Rogers said. By the use of shading and artificial light projected from below, the lettuce's growth would not be harmed by their unusual position.

The second big innovation in this system of vertical production is that for the first time the products could be kept fresh right up to the time of sale in the market. Normally lettuce die within a day of being cut, so that few people ever get to eat them really fresh. With Mr. Rogers' ambitious plan, the lettuce could survive a month after maturity simply because they need be cut only at the moment the customer in the shop buys them.



Closeup of a half-grown lettuce showing root growth without soil. The little bag contains peat for propagation purposes only. The peat bag could be removed but it is convenient for demonstration purposes.

The whole plastic pipe in which they are to be grown would first be placed in a cooled lorry in which they could live for up to a week, if necessary without water. Thus lettuce could be transported long distances--across the desert, for instance, or overseas. On arrival at the shop, all the shopkeeper would have to do would be to pour water (minus nutrients) into the top of the bag from time to time, to keep the plants fresh.

Moving on to the question of house plants, plant growth in nutrient film has been proved in England to be four to five times that in soil--and due to the fact that the plants have all the nourishment they need, their colours are far better. The same applies to strawberries, which taste better for the same reason. Scientific analysis has proved that in spite of their being grown in water only, the strawberries' consistency is no more watery. In Baqa'a, where three to four tons of strawberries per dunum are currently produced, yield could be increased, with NFT, to 50 tons per dunum.

In case one should have any doubts as to the soundness of his projects, Mr. Rogers, who is always looking to the future himself, elaborated in some detail that colonisation in outer space will necessitate fresh vegetable production. He pointed out that at this moment the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration is studying hydroponics, an ideal technique for this purpose since the equipment is very light and does not occupy much space.

In an enclosed, artificially lit environment in which water would be created from gases--hydrogen already exists in space and oxygen would be taken

up in the spaceship--"the ultimate future potential of NFT", Mr. Rogers prophesies, "lies in space-ship colonisation."

Coming back down to earth for the present, his immediate ambition is to stay in Jordan and develop hydroponics on a commercial basis. His experiment at the university has been carried out under private sponsorship. But lack of capital to continue on a larger scale will result, if no businessman prepared to work with him in partnership comes forward, in Mr. Rogers' having to give up, temporarily at least, the whole idea of hydroponic farming in Jordan.

Although he is prepared to work here for a while in some other field of engineering, it would be a shame if such an opportunity to accomplish a much-needed improvement in agricultural production and exports should ultimately go waste.

JTV reception on Channel 6 temporarily impaired

AMMAN, Feb. 13 (JT) -- A faulty booster transponder designed to cover the city centre was the cause tonight of poor reception of channel six television programmes. The booster is located atop the insurance building at Third Circle. In the areas affected, channel six programmes are received on channel 11 after being relayed by the booster station, which is capable of directing the broadcast into valleys. A source at Jordan Television said the problem would be corrected in time for clear transmission tomorrow night.

TODAY'S WEATHER

A depression centred west of Cyprus will affect Jordan. The weather will be cloudy and rainy, with thunderstorms. A considerable drop in temperature will occur. Winds will be south-westerly fresh, strong at times. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with chance of rain. Wind will be southerly fresh with rough seas.

	Overnight	Daytime
	low	high
Amman	4	11
Aqaba	9	20
Deserts	4	17
Jordan Valley	11	18

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

U.S. dollar	293.50/295.50
U.K. sterling	676.50/680.50
West German mark	168.60/169.60
Swiss franc	181.20/182.30
French franc	72.00/72.40
Italian lire	
(for every 100)	36.30/36.50
Japanese yen	
(for every 100)	121.30/122.00
Dutch guilder	153.00/153.90
Belgium franc	103.90/104.50
Swedish crown	70.60/71.00

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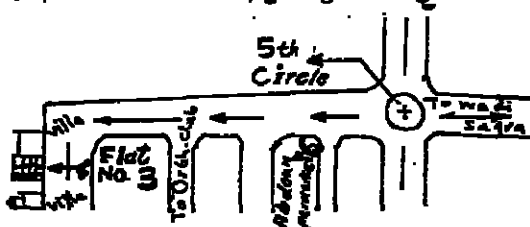
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Jordan slams Hebron settlement

(Continued from page 1)

that these acts of void practices be as soon as possible."

United Nations, General Kurt Waldheim expressed concern at the Israeli government's decision to permit the settlement in Hebron. "Such a move is likely to exacerbate the tense situation and to make it more difficult to achieve a just peace in the Middle East," he said in a statement.

The United States, Israeli cabinet decision implemented, have sequenced for Middle negotiations.

indications of this decision and far-reaching States government concerned about the Department state-

s such as the move- settlers into the city self would be a step o the peace process ell have serious con-

sequences for the autonomy negotiations.

"It would damage the confidence of the parties--particularly the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza -- in the peace process because it raises the basic questions of Israel's commitment to full autonomy," the statement added.

Spokesman Hodding Carter said Israel had told the United States that Jewish settlement in the exclusively Arab city could begin, but he did not know when Israel would implement the decision.

He said he was not aware of any U.S. counter-steps that would be taken to dissuade Israel from implementing the plan.

Meanwhile, the Israeli Knesset finance committee today agreed to allocate 50 million Israeli pounds (\$1.3 million) for the purchase of land for Jewish settlements on the occupied West Bank.

Committee chairman Shlomo Lorenz refused to disclose how the funds would be spent, but he said the purchases would include land near Elon Moreh.

The controversial settlement of Elon Moreh was dismantled several weeks ago after an Israeli court ruled that the land had been seized illegally from its Arab owners.

Mrs. Geula Cohen, a right-wing Israeli parliamentarian who advocates wide-scale Jewish settlement on the West Bank, said the American condemnation was "undemocratic, unreasonable and biased."

"If Jews can live in Brooklyn and London, why on earth can't they live in Hebron and Nablus," he said.

Hebron's town council sent a message to Israeli Defence Minister Ezer Weizman deploring the decision to allow Jewish settlement in the town, and saying "we shall not let that decision come into being because Hebron is Arab and Islamic."

The Israeli authorities have fenced off 1,000 dunums (62.5 hectares) of West Bank land just east of Lydda. Military sources said a new settlement was planned there for employees of the nearby Israel aircraft industries.

AMMAN STOCK EXCHANGE REPORT

Name of Company	Par Value	Number Traded	High	Low	Closing Price
Al Ezdihar Insurance Co.	JD 1,000	200	3.210	3.210	3.210
Islamic Bank	JD 1,000	300	2.940	2.940	2.940
Bank of Jordan	JD 5,000	100	16.050	16.050	16.050
Jordan Gulf Bank	JD 1,000	17700	1.610	1.610	1.610
Jordan Kuwait Bank	JD 1,000	3565	2.100	2.000	2.100
Arab Investment Bank	JD 1,000	50	1.410	1.410	1.410
Jordan National Bank	JD 5,000	520	16.100	16.100	16.100
Cairo Amman Bank	JD 5,000	2878	16.000	15.800	16.000
Dar Al Dawa Development and Investment Co.	JD 1,000	4523	4.100	4.000	4.100
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural Co.	JD 1,000	15521	3.130	3.130	3.130
Jordan General Mining Co.	JD 1,000	1400	1.400	1.350	1.400
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Co.	JD 5,000	404	28.000	28.000	28.000
Arab Company for Aluminium Industries	JD 1,000	500	1.450	1.450	1.450
Jordan Electricity Co.	JD 1,000	10577	2.200	2.100	2.100
International Construction and Investment	JD 1,000	17160	1.040	1.020	1.040
Jordan Cement Factories Co.	JD 10,000	200	20.450	20.450	20.450
Jordan Glass Factories Co.	JD 1,000	500	0.980	0.980	0.980
Arab Chemical Detergents Industries Co.	JD 1,000	6730	2.300	2.250	2.300
Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co.	JD 5,000	3278	10.000	9.950	10.000

Total Volume Traded on Wednesday, Feb. 13, 1980: JD 267,003

Total number of shares traded: 86,114

Government Development Bonds

Year of Maturity	Par Value	Number Traded	Volume Traded	High	Low
1988	JD 10,000	83	854	10.400	10.230

Basketball roundup

NEW YORK, Feb. 13 (AP) — The Houston Rockets, who have been shooting down opponents recently with the three-point field goal, learned what it's like to be on the receiving end — but managed to escape with their fourth straight win. The Rockets survived a barrage of five consecutive three-pointers in the final 54 seconds yesterday to edge the San Antonio Spurs 120-118. With 54 seconds remaining, George Gervin threw in a three-point shot. Kevin Reston hit one and Mike Evans added two more to cut Houston's lead to 116-115 with 24 seconds left. Two free throws by Moses Malone and a steal and two more foul shots by Allen Leavie made it 120-115. Larry Kenon hit another three-point shot to close the gap to two, and Houston needed a clutch inbound pass from Robert Reid to Rudy Tomjanovich with a second remaining.

Hawks 95, Blazers 89. John Drew scored 24 points and grabbed 12 rebounds as the Hawks won their seventh in a row and stretched their Central Division lead to five games. It was the 10th loss at home for Portland.

Washington Bullets 128, Denver Nuggets 111. Washington, which lost the first three games of its seven-game road trip, finally got untraced at Denver as guard Kevin Grevey scored a season-high 32 points and forwards Elvin Hayes and Greg Ballard added 21 apiece. Ballard got 20 of his points in the first half.

Chicago Bulls 100, Golden State Warriors 94. David Greenwood's slam dunk shot with 2:15 remaining broke a 92-92 tie and put Chicago ahead to stay. The rookie forward from UCLA scored 10 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter and also blocked three shots and made two steals in the final period.

Taiwan criticises U.S. court decision

TAIPEI, Feb. 13 (R) — Taiwan accused the United States today of injecting politics into the Olympics — not for its opposition to the Moscow Games, but for opposing Taiwan's fight to use its own flag and anthem at the Lake Placid Winter Games. Taiwanese athletes fought and lost a battle in U.S. courts against the flag ban, imposed by the Olympic movement last year when it admitted communist China. The U.S. government supported the Inter-

national Olympic Committee (IOC) on the issue.

Laurance Ting, vice chairman of the Republic of China Olympic Committee, told a press conference today: "We are disappointed that the U.S. state department should inject politics into the Olympic movement." He said the committee had not decided whether to compete under the conditions laid down by the IOC.

Soviets object to U.S. treatment

MOSCOW, Feb. 13 (R) — Five top Soviet athletes accused the United States today of trying to undermine Soviet morale at the Winter Olympics by hindering the arrival of Soviet sportsmen at Lake Placid. The athletes, in a letter to Izvestia newspaper, were protesting the refusal by staff at New York's Kennedy airport to service an Aeroflot airliner carrying 122 members of the Moscow delegation. The plane flew on to Washington after a two-hour delay.

They described the baggage handlers' action on Sunday as official lawlessness encouraged by the Washington authorities. "It is possible that the American authorities are thus trying to put moral pressure on the Soviet athletes to hamper their successful performance at the Winter Games," they said in the letter, which was clearly sanctioned at senior level.

"If these uncontrolled actions are not stopped, we regard it as quite lawful and moral for the Soviet authorities to take measures in response," the athletes said.

According to the American side, the Ilyushin-62 landed at Kennedy Airport in breach of an agreement with Aeroflot. Under

the deal, the airline was to fly elsewhere to avoid a repetition of an incident last week when ground staff first refused to handle a Soviet plane in protest at Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. Neither the reported agreement nor the reason for ground staff's action were mentioned in the letter. Similar charges were broadcast to millions of Russians on Soviet television yesterday evening. A commentator accused the American authorities of discrimination against the Soviet athletes in Lake Placid, of creating artificial difficulties for them and breaching elementary rules of respect and hospitality. He added that Soviet athletes at Lake Placid could not get enough buses to take them for training.

49 countries enter in soccer tourney

ZURICH, Switzerland, Feb. 13 (R) — A total of 49 countries have entered so far for the 1981 World Youth Soccer Championship, the International Football Federation (FIFA), who organise the event, said today. The under-19 tournament's final series is to be held in Australia from Oct. 3 to 18, 1981. A total of 96 countries competed in the 1979 competition.

Squash championship results

SOUTHAMPTON, England, Feb. 13 (R) — Semifinal results in the International Squash Players Association Championship here last night:

Mohibullah Khan beat Gogi Alauddin 9-4, 9-3, 9-5 and Qamar Zaman beat Maysood Ahmed 10-9, 7-9, 9-0, 9-3.

Walter Mondale opens Olympics

LAKE PLACID, Feb. 13 (R) — U.S. Vice-President Walter Mondale formally opens the Winter Olympics today — while ident Carter bent on denying the Summer Games to Moscow reality the sports festival will already have been running 6 hours when Olympic President Lord Killanin invites Mondale to declare the games officially open.

Some 10 sportsmen and women will compete in nine events on the artificial snow and ice of this Adirondack Mountain resort but the hockey players got a flying start yesterday by playing fixtures before the opening ceremony. In one of the mismatches of the games, the Soviet Union swamped Japan with an avalanche of 16 goals and took the first step to should be a fifth successive title.

But Czechoslovakia, though expected to finish with the medals, did their best to topple the Russians by opening a crushing 11-0 triumph over Norway. The only competition will be under floodlights on the mountain where East German crack tobogganists begin their attempt to sweep all three medals — as they did in Innsbruck four years ago. The first runs in the men's and women's individual events will be tonight, with the two-man event scheduled for next week.

But this time individual title-holder Dettlef Guenther as team mates face a tough challenge from experienced Italian Hildgartner, the world champion, and Karl Brunner, the pean champion. But the East Germans look fairly safe as women's event with world title-holder Melitta Sollmann eye to finish ahead of defending champion Margit Schumann.

Japan studies Olympic boycott move

TOKYO, Feb. 13 (R) — The Japanese government will make an immediate decision whether to support a boycott of the Olympic Games, a spokesman said today. "The government hopes to watch the movement of the Olympic and world side before making a judgement on the Olympic issue by the application deadline on May 19," Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Ito told a parliamentary committee.

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After decision to go ahead with Moscow Games Olympic leaders face U.S. boycott, possibility of alternative games

LAKE PLACID, Feb. 13 (R) — Olympic leaders today faced a United States boycott and possible rival international games after their decision to go ahead with the 1980 Summer Olympics in Moscow despite American protests over Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

President Carter is due to hold a news conference only a few hours after Vice-President Walter Mondale formally opens the Winter Olympics today in this now snow-covered Adirondack village.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Lord Killanin announced the unanimous decision of his 73 members, including two Americans, that the games should take place as planned next July because of their "prime responsibility to the young athletes of the world."

The Carter administration, regretting the IOC rebuff, said: "Under the circumstances, neither the president, the Congress nor the American people can support the sending of the United States team to Moscow this summer."

The IOC, after three days of debate, rejected the U.S. charge that Moscow was unfit to stage the games because it was "the capital of an invading nation."

"The very existence of the Olympic Games, the Olympic movement and the organization of sport through the international federations is at stake," Lord Killanin said in a written statement.

"The International Olympic Committee cannot solve the political problems of the world, but calls upon the governments of all countries, and in particular those of the major powers, to come together to resolve their differences."

"I was president of the IOC, and all members, will do everything in our power to assist in this so that the games of the 23rd Olympiad can take place in the right atmosphere," the statement said.

Lord Killanin, in reply to reporters' questions, said he hoped the majority of national Olympic committees (NOC) would go to Moscow, but that they would have to take their own decision on this.

The IOC statement said only NOCs, and not governments, could accept or refuse invitations to Olympic Games, and they have until May 24 to do so for Moscow.

Lord Killanin said there could be sanctions against NOCs if they advised that they were not going because of pressure from their governments, from which they are supposed to be independent under Olympic rules. But such sanctions could be avoided, he said, with "discretion and diplomacy."

Asked whether a U.S. boycott at Moscow would force cancellation of plans to hold the 1984 games in

Los Angeles, Lord Killanin said: "I certainly hope not. The world changes day by day."

Lord Killanin, whose eight-year term as head of the IOC is due to end after the Summer Games, said the only circumstances which would cause reconsideration of the case would be a breach of the contract between the Moscow organizers and the IOC or if the Russians refused to permit entry of any eligible NOC.

"The games will be held for all those who want to go to Moscow," he stated.

Asked what would happen to the Olympics if only a few East European and other countries competed, Lord Killanin said: "I don't believe for a moment that only the East Europeans will compete, but it would be a pity for the games if all the competitors came from countries of one political persuasion."

He reminded those who talked of alternative or "free world" games that they would have to obtain licenses for international meets from the individual sports federations, most of which have expressed support for the IOC

stand. In Canberra, Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser said today that a boycott of the Moscow Olympics was the most effective way of condemning the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

In a televised speech, Mr. Fraser urged his country's Olympic officials not to send athletes to the games because he said their attendance would indicate approval of Soviet foreign policies.

"Of all the measures that are open to independent nations, a boycott or the movement of the Olympic Games would have the most effect in the Soviet Union," he said.

"It cannot be hidden. It will be visible to the Soviet people and that will expose the emptiness of the Soviet Union's claim that the Olympic Games represents worldwide approval of their foreign policy."

Australian Olympic officials have said they will support the IOC ruling that the Moscow Games go ahead. Mr. Fraser is due to meet the officials later this week in an effort to change their minds.

W. Germany seeking to coordinate fresh international aid to Turkey

BONN, Feb. 13 (R) — West Germany is seeking to coordinate fresh international aid to Turkey, whose economic plight on NATO's southeastern flank has been highlighted by events in Afghanistan.

Ankara is requesting a repeat of last year's injection of close to \$1 billion for 1980, with the Turkish economy labouring under foreign debt and crippling oil bills.

When West German Finance Minister Hans Matthöfer begins talks in the Turkish capital next Monday, he will be discussing a longer term aid package, perhaps over four to five years.

He has pressed for an increase in the initial year of the 1979 package given by the Western industrialized states of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Mr. Matthöfer, who will go to Geneva and Athens this weekend before arriving in Ankara, hopes to work out the framework for international aid in the next two months.

A Finance Ministry spokesman said he would discuss the issue

with Saudi Arabia's finance minister, Sheikh Mohammad Ali Abul-Khalil, in Geneva.

Mr. Matthöfer said he intends to ask 21 of the OECD's 24 member states to help in the complex package, which includes military aid.

He has also suggested that oil producing countries take part in the economic plan, involving close cooperation with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

When a group of Turkish experts met Mr. Matthöfer in Frankfurt earlier this month, West German officials said the group presented detailed, medium-term proposals to surmount Turkey's economic problems.

These included plans to check soaring inflation, start dismantling state-controlled prices and intensify Turkey's efforts to find and develop its own oil resources.

Turkish Prime Minister Süleyman Demirel, installed at the head of a new government three months ago, announced a drastic economic package last month to try to cure the country's ills.

But government officials conceded that the success of the package depended on speedy, large-scale cash aid, particularly to finance oil imports for the next few months.

Nearly \$400 million appeared immediately after news of the Ankara Government's economic package. The U.S. Government released \$98 million and a Western bank consortium provided \$101 million.

Two other Western banks also released \$190 million as a bridging loan on the basis of cash promised to Turkey by the IMF, but delayed because the organization's board meets only once a month.

Government and central bank officials immediately set about looking for the additional \$600 million they believe is needed to solve the immediate crisis. They hope that Mr. Matthöfer will be able to meet their demand during his Ankara visit.

The government believes that further large-scale Western aid will be forthcoming following Mr. Demirel's economic package.

But they fear that the cash could come too late, as was the case last year despite the January 1979 decision of the "big four" Western leaders in Guadeloupe to grant urgent aid to Turkey.

A large portion of that aid has still not reached the Turkish central bank, according to bank sources.

With Turkey struggling to pay back \$15 billion of external debts and its oil bills barely covered by foreign currency revenue, Ankara turned to Saudi Arabia.

The appeal, based on the two countries' Muslim ties—Turkey is 98 per cent Muslim—apparently failed because the Saudis did not want to set a precedent by bailing out a fellow Muslim country just to pay for its imported oil, according to diplomatic sources in Ankara.

As well as the \$600 million Turkey is looking for, Ankara will also be pushing for a commitment for further unconditional cash aid.

France urged to boost nuclear deterrent, intervention capacity

PARIS, Feb. 13 (R) — Gaullist leader Jacques Chirac called on France yesterday to strengthen its nuclear deterrent and capacity for military intervention abroad in response to the East-West crisis.

Mr. Chirac proposed at a news conference that the French fleet of nuclear submarines be increased from six to 15 at the rate of one every 18 months.

At the same time, more ships and aircraft should be made available to transport French forces to preserve the peace in trouble spots in Africa and elsewhere, Mr. Chirac said.

The Gaullist leader echoed President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing in condemning the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan as unacceptable, and said that for France, a successful policy of détente required firmness and not weakness.

"Only national resolve, unambiguously proclaimed and based on restoration of our economic power and on immediate and effective strengthening of our means of deterrence and inter-

vention can be the right answer to present tensions," Mr. Chirac said.

Mr. Chirac, whose party is the biggest in the centre-right coalition, said he welcomed serious counter measures by the United States to the Soviet threat, like improved defence and the deployment of medium range missiles in Europe.

But he regretted such moves as the campaign to boycott the Summer Olympic Games in Moscow. "The Olympics are a great movement... It is a pity that they should be threatened for political reasons," the Gaullist leader said.

In a statement at the start of his news conference, Mr. Chirac said: "If we wish to preserve détente, we should reestablish the balance that has been disturbed and take a resolutely deterrent attitude to Soviet expansionism in the world."

In his first major national appearance since the elections to the Common Market's European Parliament last June, Mr. Chirac toned down his customary aggressive criticism of the government.

Rhodesia governor now has power to bar thousands from voting in elections

SALISBURY, Feb. 13 (R) — British Governor Lord Soames has given himself the power to bar thousands of people from voting in this month's pre-independence Rhodesian elections in a further effort to stamp out what he calls political intimidation by Mr. Robert Mugabe's guerrillas.

The move, promptly rejected by a guerrilla spokesman, further hardened a confrontation between Mr. Mugabe and Lord Soames which has thrust the tenuous, six-week-old ceasefire in Rhodesia's bush war towards a serious breakdown.

"An explosive situation is at hand," declared Mr. Mugabe's spokesman, Mr. Justin Nyoka.

Mr. Mugabe met Lord Soames yesterday to deliver a catalogue of complaints alleging that the governor was biased against his ZANU-Patriotic Front party and had tacitly approved acts of intimidation against it.

"Our definite position is that unless the acts of terrorism being directed against us immediately cease, our party reserves the right not only to defend its members with vigour but also to retaliate with equal ruthlessness," Mr. Mugabe told Lord Soames in a written memorandum.

Mr. Mugabe delivered his complaints shortly after Lord Soames signed an ordinance giving himself powers to exclude districts or parts of districts from the Feb. 27 to 29 vote unless there was a marked decrease in the level of violent intimidation, informed sources said.

The areas where Lord Soames might implement the ban, which added to earlier powers he gave himself last week, were all ZANU-PF strongholds, the sources indicated.

Ironically, the measures, if implemented, would disenfranchise the very people who have suffered most in the war, caught between both sides in the brutal conflict, nationalist sources said.

"We are not going to take this lying down," Mr. Nyoka told reporters. "We do not accept his right to do this. If he bans people or disenfranchises a whole district, we will not be held responsible for continuing to observe the ceasefire."

In his memorandum to Lord Soames, Mr. Mugabe complained bitterly that the British governor had tacitly approved efforts to eliminate the ZANU-PF leadership in order to further the election prospects of his rival, outgoing premier Bishop Abel Muzorewa.

Mr. Mugabe directed much of

his anger at Lord Soames' decision to deploy Rhodesian security forces while some 22,000 Patriotic Front guerrillas — 17,000 loyal to Mr. Mugabe and the rest from Mr. Joshua Nkomo's faction — are confined to Commonwealth-monitored ceasefire assembly areas.

British spokesman say thousands of Mr. Mugabe's men are still at large and are behind a wave of intimidation. The mounting conflict between Mr. Mugabe and Lord Soames is causing serious tension among the still-armed guerrillas in the ceasefire camps.

Some guerrillas have already threatened to leave the camps if their leader is harmed and Mr. Mugabe declared yesterday: "Our forces are growing extremely unhappy and impatient about upholding a unilateral ceasefire."

Meanwhile in Addis Ababa, informed sources said today that the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) is giving \$10 million to Mr. Mugabe and Mr. Nkomo to finance their election campaigns.

The sources said the money would be divided equally between the two leaders who were linked as the Patriotic Front while their guerrillas were fighting against the Salisbury administration but who are fighting the elections separately.

The poll is in two weeks time and the OAU council of ministers is calling on Britain to ensure it is free and fair.

The 49-member council of ministers will meet in special session one week after the elections to decide if they were fair and acceptable to Black Africa.

If the OAU was dissatisfied with the elections, the question of applying diplomatic and economic sanctions to Britain would be discussed, the sources said.

Rhodesia's whites vote tomorrow in elections for an independence parliament in which they could be no more than a token presence.

Scandinavia's economic squeeze

By Lloyd Timberlake

STOCKHOLM — Two of the three Scandinavian welfare states are having trouble paying for their high life-styles and the rising costs of their social benefits. The third, Norway, has oil. This should more than balance its budget for the rest of the century while the Norwegians try to keep spiralling wage claims from pricing their traditional exports off the world market.

But Denmark is halfway to the brink of economic collapse, according to Central Bank Governor Erik Hoffmeyer.

And Sweden recently announced a record deficit in its 1980-81 draft budget, with more than a quarter of the public spending financed by debts. Budget Minister Ingemar Mundebo said he foresaw similar deficits stretching well into the 1980s.

Both face a threatened slump in the export markets, more expensive oil and an agreement between citizen and politician that Scandinavian taxpayers have been squeezed for all they are worth and that raising taxes is no longer a viable way of raising revenues.

These thinly-populated but highly-industrialised nations must export to survive, and the widely predicted world economic slowdown of the early 1980s would hurt the foreign demand for their high-quality but expensive products.

"Doubts as to the future competitiveness of Swedish manufactured goods... cast a slight shadow on growth possibilities," said the Federation of Swedish Industries in a recent report.

It added that a survey of exporters indicated they feared the

growth volume would be less than one per cent in 1980.

"In view of the bleak export outlook and continuously worsening terms of trade, which due to actual and expected oil price rises is inevitable, the trade balance deficit may become alarmingly large in 1980 and severely restrict the expansion of domestic demand," it said.

The federation predicted a 1980 current account deficit of over 22 billion crowns (\$5.3 billion), against 12.5 billion (\$2.9 billion) for 1979. The government predicts only a 12 billion crown 1980 deficit.

In announcing his latest budget, Mr. Mundebo said that excluding welfare benefits—most of which are inflation linked and must rise—the increases in spending for 1980-81 were only one per cent, compared with six to seven per cent in recent years.

Three centre-right parties won a delicate one-seat majority in the Riksdag (parliament) in last September's general election with promises of lower personal taxes. So far the coalition government has kept its word, raising only energy, alcohol and tobacco taxes to keep consumption down.

Sweden, which claims to use more oil per capita than any other nation, will vote in a referendum on March 23 on whether to phase out its six nuclear reactors, now providing 22 per cent of the country's electricity.

Despite the projected export slump, the government expects a 3.6 per cent growth in the gross national product this year, down slightly from last year but still ahead of what is expected in most Western nations this year.

A national wage claim under negotiation could force up inflation, which last year was 9.8 per cent.

The economic woes of

Denmark, which enjoys perhaps the highest standard of living of the Common Market members, are more spectacular.

The Folketing (parliament) passed a stringent economic package before the new year designed to reduce the nation's 80 billion crown (\$14.7 billion) foreign debt—23 per cent of the gross domestic product—and balance of payments deficit, estimated at 15 billion crowns (\$2.75 billion) for last year.

The Social Democratic minority government approved wage-price controls meant to last until March 1981. But to maintain the backing of the unions, it also raised corporation, property and wealth taxes and then immediately watered down the wage controls.

Thus the government itself expects hourly wages to rise by ten per cent this year.

Central Bank Governor Hoffmeyer said Denmark had already passed three of the six steps towards economic chaos: loss of flexibility in economic decision-making, loss of international influence and respect and increased difficulties in raising foreign loans.

He wrote in a newspaper article that unless the slide was checked, Denmark might be forced to request help from the European Community and the International Monetary Fund.

Then might come the formation of a consortium of Denmark's creditors and finally the nation's welfare system and political stability would be at stake.

The outspoken governor has in the past criticised Danes for putting their welfare system in jeopardy by electing politicians to decrease their taxes and union officials to increase their wages.

Denmark, traditionally an agricultural nation, lacks the big industries of Sweden such as pulp

World New Briefs

BONN, Feb. 13 (R) — Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi today said he had agreed to U.S. military forces operating in the event of an emergency in the Gulf region. President Moi, who is on a state visit to West Germany, stressed a conference in Bonn that Kenya was only offering facilities, can forces and aircraft and there was no question of military bases. "We are not offering military bases. It's just facilities we can use like many other countries do," he said, when asked if he was involved. Oman and Somalia have given tentative agreement to allow U.S. forces to operate from their countries. President visit the U.S. for talks with President Carter from Feb. 1

ISTANBUL, Feb. 13 (R) — Turkish troops have arrested extremists, including three men and a woman suspected of being American civilians and a U.S. soldier last December. The members of the so-called "Marxist-Leninist Propaganda Union" were arrested in a series of raids in the past few days. The four Americans, three employees of the Boeing aircraft company and an army sergeant, were hauled from their car and killed by automatic rifle fire. The Marxist-Leninist Armed Propaganda Union claims responsibility.

NEW DELHI, Feb. 13 (R) — Twenty policemen are to be killed by murder, banditry and assaults on women in a village in Uttar Pradesh state, a state police official said today. Attack on the village of Narainpur last month became a national issue when Premier Indira Gandhi visited the village and accused government of trying to hush up the incident which she called one of the worst since independence in 1947. Leaders of the Janata-run state administration, however, claim using the incident to bring down their government. A police raid in the state capital of Lucknow today that preliminary investigations revealed that a local police station officer had ordered a raid on the village on Jan. 14. Two people died from injuries were assaulted and homes burned and looted. The raid after villagers were alleged to have manhandled a sub-inspector visited Narainpur earlier in the day.

LISBON, Feb. 13 (R) — Portuguese air controllers today their four-day strike for 24 hours, allowing a backlog of flights out of the country to be cleared. A spokesman for the controllers said the strike, affecting about 250 flights a day over Portugal, would resume at midnight GMT tonight for two more days. Strikers, pressing for better pay and working conditions handling emergency and military flights as well as those to and from the Atlantic islands of Madeira and the Azores, began on Monday.

STRASBOURG, France, Feb. 13 (R) — The Council of Europe (CEC) today formally opened its own network of information designed to help the European Community with the United States in an expanding industry. At a ceremony, EEC Commission President Roy Jenkins said the Community grasped the opportunities offered by the revolution of electronic technology, this could be a major growth and employment. The system, known as Euronet, a "new and powerful instrument to transport an essential community resource, information in all its aspects," he said, "use this beginning to help create and develop a health information industry in the 1980s." Mr. Jenkins told audience at the European Parliament.

LONDON, Feb. 13 (R) — The British Government has Soviet fishery research vessel from putting into the port of Lerwick off north-east Scotland, a Foreign Office spokesman said yesterday. The British action is part of the government's measures against the Soviet Union following its military intervention in Afghanistan. The spokesman said that each application by a Soviet research vessel to a British port was considered on its merits and whether Britain thought it was convenient. About 24 scientists and crewmen on the 2,300-ton non-state-owned Slavgorod had planned to enter Lerwick for rest and replenish supplies.

BOGOTA, Feb. 13 (R) — A U.S. biologist kidnapped guerrillas three years ago has been freed, Colombian military said yesterday. They said Mr. Richard Starr was released in the city of Neiva, about 300 kilometres south of Bogotá, early yesterday for the United States via Panama. Mr. Starr came to Colombia as a member of the Peace Corps. The not give any details about the release of Mr. Starr, who was captured by members of the pro-Moscow Revolutionary Forces on Feb. 14, 1977.

El Salvador militants free all but 5 hostages

SAN SALVADOR, Feb. 13 (R) — At least ten people were killed but 25 hostages being held by left-wing militants were freed yesterday in El Salvador, a country which appeared on the brink of civil war.

More than 30 people were wounded in the day's violence, which involved two separate clashes between anti-government militants and members of the security forces in this capital city. The freed hostages were unharmed.

The last hostage to be released was Spanish Ambassador Victor Sanchez Mezas who was freed last night by members of the Popular League of February 28 (LP-28). They had seized his embassy on Feb. 5 to demand the release of several imprisoned colleagues.

An LP-28 spokesman told Reuters that the militants had decided to free the ambassador in an attempt to reach an understanding with the ruling civilian-military junta.

But he said they were still holding five hostages inside the embassy to back their demands for the release of five imprisoned colleagues.

The authorities have already released 11 prisoners in an effort to end the occupation of the embassy.

The occupation of another building, the headquarters of the Christian Democratic Party, ended in a bloody gunbattle when police stormed inside.

Police said they decided to attack the building after members of the LP-28 group who invaded it on Jan. 28 opened fire and killed a policeman in front of the building.

The militants, who were also demanding the release of prisoners, resisted the attack and five of them were killed in the gunbattle, police said. A passerby was killed by a stray bullet and 23 peo-

ple, including policemen and LP-28 members, were wounded. But the 12 hostages inside the building, including the wife of Education Minister Eduardo Colindres, escaped unhurt, police said.

The occupation of the third building, the Education Ministry, ended peacefully yesterday with the release of 12 hostages, including Education Minister Colindres.

Members of the Salvadorean Revolutionary Student Movement (MERS) who took over the ministry on Feb. 5 ended their action after the authorities gave in to their demand to abolish school entrance exams.

But members of the student movement and other anti-government militants clashed a few hours later with police near the Guatemalan embassy and police said at least three people were killed and 11 wounded.

Police said that security forces were rushed to the area when the demonstrators started burning buses and cars near the embassy. It was not known if the demonstrators wanted to occupy the embassy.

Demonstrators set fire to several buses late last night and sporadic gunfire was heard in various sectors of the capital. Public transport came to a standstill and shops were closed as police patrolled the city amid reports of looting in some areas.

Diplomatic missions here are either reducing their staff or moving out because of fears of an imminent civil war between right and leftwing extremists.

The civilian-military junta overthrew the military government of General Carlos Humberto Romero last Oct. 15 in an effort to check what seemed an inevitable slide into open political warfare.